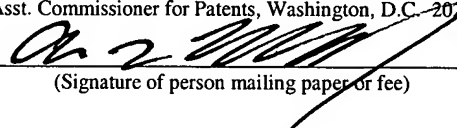


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Uwe Christiansen
PCT serial no. : PCT/EP01/04139
U.S. Serial No. : To be assigned
Filed : April 11, 2001
Priority date : April 22, 2000
For : DEVICE FOR SINTERING OF A MOLD BODY

EXPRESS MAIL MAILING LABEL NUMBER EL 256032526 US, Date of Deposit: December 20, 2001
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(Signature of person mailing paper or fee)

Attention: Box PCT
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

Please amend the above application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 1 to 18 without prejudice, and add the following new claims:

19. A device for sintering of a mold body, said device comprising:
a gas-tight chamber having an inner space therein and a duct communicating therewith
and a heating zone in the inner space; and
a device for vertical feeding of the mold body into the heating zone, said vertical feeding
device having a hoisting apparatus extending into the inner space of the chamber through the